hazards to human life particularly children;

(b) the number of manhole deaths during 1990, 1991 and so far in 1992 due to fall in manholes and the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent such accidents and the action taken against Municipal staff and those concerned for negligence leaving manholes open and uncovered; and

(d) what was the amount of compensation paid to the next of kin of those killed in such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) The MCD has reported the number of deaths due to fall in manholes as under :—

Year & No. of deaths
1990—Nil
1991—3
1992—Nil.
(Upto 31-10-92)

(c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that following steps have been taken to prevent such accident.

(i) Control Rooms have been set up in each zone for receiving complaints regarding missing manhole covers.

(ii) Manhole covers have been provided at such Control Room for replacement as soon as a complaint is received.

(iii) Periodical survey is being conducted by the Sanitation Department of MCD to replace manhole covers where missing.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi has stated that one Assistant Sanitary Inspector and one Safai Karamchari have been placed under suspension.

(d) An amount of Rs. 5,000/- is given as *ex-gratia* relief to the bereaved families in such cases.

Secessionist Activities of Pattali Makkal Katchi

1054. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the Times of India (New Delhi) dated the 11th October, 1992 under the heading 'No more garden of peace';

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware about the anti-national and secessionist activities of Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reports have been received by Government of India about the activities of Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) in Tamil Nadu. The Government is alive to the issues concerned.

Attacks on Indians in Jammu Region by ISI of Pakistan

1055. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the attack on Indian by the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan has been extended to Jammu also; and

(b) what steps Government are contemplating to stop Pakistan's infiltration and killing the people in Jammu region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) In the recent months, militants, with the active support of Pakistan, have stepped up violence in some areas of the Jammu Region, particularly the Doda district.

There have been a series of explosions, bomb blasts in public places and attacks on security forces and vital installations. In the first week of Oct. 1992 explosion took place in a Bus in the outskirts of Jammu city and in the last week of Oct. 1992, in a private Bus plying between Vijaypur and Samba (Jammu). In both these incidents, large number of people were either killed or injured. There have been a number of attacks on security forces and police outposts. The Microwave Station at Banihal was attacked and damaged leading to disruption in communication links with parts of the Valley.

(b) In order to curb militancy in the Jammu Region, possible infiltration routes have been identified and, security has been tightened to check in infiltration. Additional para military forces have been deployed and concerted efforts are being made to flush out the militants and weapons from the area.

Demand for Separate Jharkhand State

1056. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Party is demanding a separate Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far to solve the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of discussions are held with various political parties, groups and organisations to ascertain their views on the Jharkhand issue.

Hardships to Residents of Rameshwaram Due to Anti-LTTE Drive

1057. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of people living in the coastal area are put to hardships due to the anti-LTTE drive in Rameshwaram; and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to stop harassment to the local residents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) The facts are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Communal Riots in Bihar and Kerala

1058. SHRI PARMOD MAHAJAN :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the causes of communal riots in Sitamarhi (Bihar) and in Kerala in the first week of October, 1992;

(b) what was the number of persons killed and injured in these riots;

(c) the number of companies of Rapid Action Force (RAF) sent to quell the riots in Bihar and Kerala; and

(d) whether any judicial enquiry had been made into the incidents, if so, what are the details of its findings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Communal violence erupted at Sitamarhi town and its adjoining areas on 6/7th October, 1992 following a dispute over the route of procession for immersion of Durga Puja idols. Violence broke out at Mattancherry (District Ernakulam) on 7/8th October, 1992 when an RSS worker and his wife were attacked by ISS workers.